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(54) An apparatus for retaining bone portions in a desired spatial relationship

(57) An apparatus for retaining first and second bone portions in a desired spatial relationship comprises a first member positionable along the first and second bone portions. A second member connectable with the first bone portion has surface means defining an opening. A fastener is extendable through the opening in the second member to connect the second member to the first bone portion. The fastener has a first portion for engaging the first bone portion and a second portion for clamping the first member against the second member to fix the first and second members against relative movement. The first member is also connected to the second bone portion.

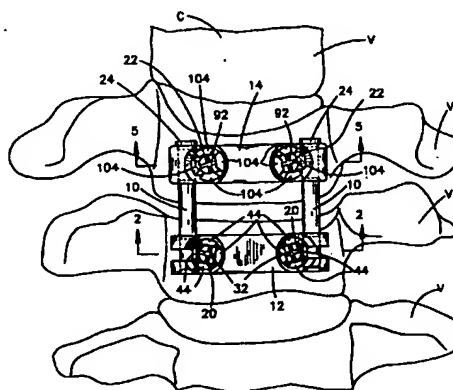


Fig.1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
X	WO 95 08298 A (BECKERS ET AL.) * the whole document *	1,5,7	A61B17/70
A	US 4 611 581 A (STEFFEE) * column 5, line 61 - column 6, line 57; figures *	1,2,5,6	
A	WO 96 08206 A (SMITH & NEPHEW RICHARDS INC.) * the whole document *	1,2,5,6	
A	FR 2 615 095 A (SOCIÉTÉ DE FABRICATION DE MATERIEL ORTHOPÉDIQUE) * abstract; figures *	1,5,7	
A	WO 91 11967 A (VIGNAUD ET AL.) * abstract; figures *	1,5	
A	US 4 289 123 A (DUNN) * figures *		
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			A61B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 18 February 1998	Examiner Giménez Burgos, R
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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